## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A peptide of the formula

X-D-Phe-Gln-R1-R2-Val-R3-His-R4-NH<sub>2</sub>

wherein X is acetyl or straight, branched or cyclic alkanoyl group from 3-16 carbon atoms, or X is deleted

R1 is Trp or D-Trp,

R2 is Ala, Aib or Deg,

R3 is Gly, Aib, Deg, Dpg or Ac5c,

R4 is Leu or Ile

or a hydrolyzable carboxy protecting group; wherein at least one of R2 or R3 is an  $\alpha,\alpha$ - dialkylated amino acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the peptide wherein Aib is  $\alpha$ -aminoisobutyric acid, Deg is  $\alpha,\alpha$ -diethyl glycine, Dpg is  $\alpha,\alpha$ -di-n-propyl glycine and Ac5c is 1-amino-cyclo pentane carboxylic acid.

2. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:

D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Ala-Val-Aib-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 3) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Aib, R3 is Gly and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:

D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Aib-Val-Gly-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 4) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is D-Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:

D-Phe-Gln-D-Trp-Ala-Val-Aib-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO:5) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Aib, R3 is Gly and R4 is Ile, and said peptide has the formula:

D-Phe-GIn-Trp-Aib-Val-Gly-His-Ile-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 6) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 6. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Ile, and said peptide has the formula: D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Ala-Val-Aib-His-Ile-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO:7) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 7. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is D-Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Dpg and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:

  D-Phe-Gln-D-Trp-Ala-Val-Dpg-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO:8)
  or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 8. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Deg, R3 is Gly and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula:
  D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Deg-Val-Gly-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO:9)
  or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 9. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X deleted, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Ac5c and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula: D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Ala-Val-Ac5c-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 10) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 10. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is butanoyl, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu, and said peptide has the formula: Butanoyl-D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Ala-Val-Aib-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 11) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 11. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1, wherein X is octanoyl, R1 is Trp, R2 is Ala, R3 is Aib and R4 is Leu and said peptide has the formula: Octanoyl-D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Ala-Val-Aib-His-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 12) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 12. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

## Claims 13-20 (Cancelled)

- 21. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 22. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 23. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 4, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 24. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 5, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 25. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 6, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 26. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 7, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 27. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 8, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 28. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 9, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 29. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 10, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 30. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 11, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 31-50 (Cancelled)